THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 3rd March 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The budget discussion is commencing to-day. I would request such of those hon. Members who wish to take part in the discussion to give their names. I would like to have an idea of the number of speakers from the Government side and from the other side so that I may adjust the time to be allotted for each speaker."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"We have got four full days for discussion and I doubt very much whether the hon. Members will utilize all the four days. What I would suggest is that enough time be allowed for each speaker to cover the ground as fully as he likes. For the reason that there is no voting on Demands for Grants in this House, we may have exhaustive discussion and also exhaustive reply by the Ministers. The first three days may be allotted for discussion and the fourth day reserved for Government reply."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I know we have got four days. Last year my experience was that many members wanted to speak at the last moment and so I had to curtail the time allotted for each speaker. For Government Members, I want to allot a sufficiently long time. Meanwhile I would like to have some indication of the number of speakers."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Last year we had only half a day's sitting every day for budget discussion, and no member came forward to speak on the first day."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Members do not generally come forward to speak on the first day.

"Those who want to speak must give their names in writing to-day before the close of the question hour."

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Alleged looting in a village bordering the Nizam's State.

*18-B *Q.*—SRI N. SANKARA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that a village called Kondapragattur in Nandikotkur taluk, Kurnool district, in our Province was looted in broad day-light on 6th or 7th of this month by a gang from the Nizam's Dominion; and

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(b) if so, what special steps have the Government taken to give protection to villages bordering the Nizam's State on the rivers of Kistna and Tungabhadra?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" (a) A report to that effect has been received from the District Magistrate.

" (b) The District Authorities have taken suitable precautionary measures against a recurrence of such incidents and have also assured the villagers of the affected village and of other villages on the border, of all protection and aid."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will the Government take steps to provide arms to the residents on the borders of the Nizam's Dominions who require them? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" People who need arms can apply for licences. At the same time the Government feel that if they do not control the possession of arms, the armed people might eventually turn into a Fascist organization."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know whether the Government have received reports of similar incidents in other places also as Chyagi in Adoni taluk? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I said in the other House, the Government have had reports of these incidents. All that we can do is to report to the Government of India and the Agent-General, because the Nizam has got an independent status of his own till some agreement is arrived at. So far as the Provincial Government are concerned, the only step they can take is to protect the borders by armed police and report to the Government of India the steps they should take to prevent the occurrence of these incidents."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether armed police are stationed in the border areas? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir. In fact, my Hon. Colleague, the Minister for Agriculture, has been complaining that I am depleting Malabar of Malabar Special Police."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know how many armed police have been stationed in the Bellary district to defend the people against attacks from the Nizam's border? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" If hon. Gentlemen are panicky, even a battalion or regiment may not be able to protect."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" I protest against the use of the word ' panicky.' We are not at all panicky. We want to defend ourselves against attacks from the Nizam's frontier, and for that purpose we want to be provided with arms. A number of jeeps and motor vehicles should tour the area."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Might I tell the hon. Gentleman that arms in the hands of people who do not know how to use them are more a danger to themselves than even to others? "

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know whether the Nizam's Government have stationed military force on their border? ".

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As far as I know, there are no military forces but only armed reserves. We can post only armed reserves because the Provincial Government do not possess military force."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know whether the reserves on the Madras side of the Tungabhadra are sufficient when compared with the reserves on the borders of the Nizam's Dominions? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I cannot take the question any further."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I ask whether our Government are aware about trenches being dug by the Nizam's armies on their side of the border?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I have already said that I cannot take the question any further."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In case the armed reserves from the Nizam's Dominions make an incursion into our territory, are our police to keep quiet and report to the Government of India or can they retaliate? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The hon. Gentleman might have read what I said in the other House. I had asked our police to shoot if the armed reserves from the Nizam's Territory came into our borders, and the Nizam's Government have complained against the Madras Government for such incidents."

Working hours of the Government buses in the City.

* 18-A Q.—SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the working hours of the Government Bus Transport in the City of Madras have been shortened by 1½ hours;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that previous to Government taking over the Bus Transport, buses were plying till 11 p.m. in the night, and

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the commercial public in the city who work till late in the night are put to a great lot of inconvenience as the buses stop running after 9-30 p.m.?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) & (*b*) There has been no change in the schedule of timings laid down for